

December 2004

Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia

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Special points of interest:

- The Juvenile Justice Act Is Signed Into Law
- A Star-Studded Event for CSSD
- Terrell Junior High School Students Celebrate the Holidays

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Dear Colleagues—

As the year draws to a close, I wanted to thank each of you for your extraordinary contributions to our many successes in 2004. Your efforts, professionalism and commitments to the Office of the Attorney General, our government and city residents enabled us to achieve—and surpass—the most important goals for this agency. I am also grateful for your support and patience during the reor-

ganization. I look forward to honoring the commitments I made to you that we have not yet reached, only because we ran out of time in 2004, not energy or resolve. I pledge to continue my efforts to make the OAG a model for the government and the city, acknowledging, of course, that I can succeed only with your help. Please enjoy a safe, happy holiday season and come back eager to address our unfinished business. I wish you and your loved ones all peace and blessings now and in the New Year.



Attorney General Robert Spagnoletti speaking with Hon. Arthur L. Burnett, Sr. (Ret.) at the Teen Dating Violence National Summit



Cases and Legislation

The Juvenile Justice Act

Mayor Anthony A. Williams signed into the law the Omnibus Juvenile Justice of 2004 in November. David Rubenstein, Deputy Attorney General, Public Safety Division; David Rosenthal, Senior Counsel, Public Safety Division; and Rosalyn Groce, Supervisory Assistant Attorney General, Appellate Division/Criminal Appeals wrote the

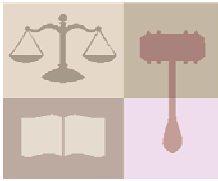
measure. The law is intended to bolster the city's juvenile justice system in several ways, including allowing judges to order parents into court and to pay up to \$10,000 in restitution to their child's victim. It also ensures that the most violent youth offenders can be diverted to the adult criminal system by requiring the courts to conduct hearings and make determinations regarding

adult transfers of juvenile offenders in a timely manner.



Mayor Williams signing the Juvenile Justice Act into law on Nov. 29, 2004





Cases and Legislation

The Public Safety Division is hard at work. On December 1, 2004 Assistant Attorney General Nick Majett handled the sentencing phase of *D.C. v. Thomas and Anna John*, a high profile criminal housing code violation case. Each defendant was sentenced to 10 days suspended sentences, 1 year of unsupervised probation, and approximately \$800 fines and assessments to be paid into a fund for the victims of violent crimes. Additionally, the ten-

ants of each of the properties will become homeowners of their respective units or may opt to accept buy outs. As restitution for being subjected to such deplorable living conditions, the tenants of Parkwell will each receive approximately \$40,000 to assist them in purchasing their homes. The tenants of First Place Gardens have the opportunity to purchase their individual units at amounts significantly below market value. ♦♦♦

Section Chief Bennett Rushkoff, and Assistant Attorneys General Don Resnikoff and Anika Cooper are calling CVS — the nation's largest drug store chain — o task in an antitrust case. The OAG contends CVS is trying to reduce competition by buying the Anchor Pharmacy on MacArthur Boulevard and roping the struggling pharmacy into a deal where it can't do business in the Palisades neighborhood for three years. The case is going to trial next year.



Thanks to AAG Michael McMiller for picking the name for the OAG newsletter, "Inter Alia" — the Latin phrase for "Among other things..."

Assistant Attorneys General Niquelle Allen and Michael Miller joined forces to win an outright defense victory in *Lois Tett v. DC 02-1417*. This case involved a trip and fall over a Metro subway grate on a DC sidewalk. There was dried cement protruding from the grate. It was the District's contention that plaintiff was running for a

bus and was not paying enough attention to where she was going. Ms. Tett suffered severe injuries and demanded \$75,000 dollars prior to trial, but both the District and co-defendant Metro refused to enter into settlement discussions. The jury found contributory negligence on plaintiff's part. **This was Ms. Allen's first trial.** ♦♦♦

The Neighborhood and Victim Services Section continue to work with the Metropolitan Police Department to weed out properties being used for prostitution. Several property owners have responded to letters sent by OAG and have promised to put an end to the nuisance problems.

First case,
first win
for AAG
Niquelle
Allen

Judge Bush granted summary judgment to the District in *Minch v. DC*. This was the false arrest/false imprisonment case, which arose out of the Metropolitan Police Department's investigation of the infamous murders at Galludet University several years ago. General Litigation III

Section Chief, Theresa Quon wrote the winning motion for summary judgment and Assistant Attorney General Theresa Rowell, who assumed the case after the motion was filed, wrote an equally convincing reply memorandum. ♦♦♦

On November 16, 2004, Assistant Attorney General

Donna Murasky got a win in an unpublished decision in *W. Louis Hennessy v. Larry D. Soulsby and D.C.*, DCCA No. 99-CV-765. The suit was brought by the former Commander of Homicide against the former Chief of MPD claiming breach of a contract. The Court found the alleged contract was contrary to public policy. ♦♦♦

Cases and Legislation cont....

On November, 17, 2004, the case of *Seegars v. Ashcroft*, was argued by Lutz Prager in the D.C. Circuit. This is the case with challenges our laws regulating hand guns and other guns as being contrary to the Second Amendment

OAG Staff News



The Child Support Services Division held its

1st Annual

CSSD Staff Awards and Recognition Ceremony on November 5th. It was an event highlighted by the achievements of a staff of stars who were given awards for Career Achievement,

Star Staff of the Month, Customer Service and Special Recognition. CSSD Director Benidia Rice summed up the purpose of the ceremony by saying, "It is important to celebrate ourselves, to say thank you to each other. Thank you for making the lives of the children of D.C. a lot better."

(See page 9 for a complete list of the award winners).



Lisa Thompson & Juan Abraham

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ Now we're on a ★
 ★ missions...now ★
 ★ we're on a ★
 ★ journey. Now we ★
 ★ are on a mission ★
 ★ to keep children ★
 ★ first." AAG Ron ★
 ★ Magnus t the ★
 ★ CSSD Staff ★
 ★ Awards ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

In Memory

Lucien Alexander, son of Delores Alexander.



Mrs. Patricia Ann Taylor-Irvin, wife of Gene Irvin.



Ms. Rosa Jones, grandmother of Mark McCollough.

New Additions

Bonnie and Scott Hannan welcomed the birth of their son, Harrison Michael Hannan on Nov. 28, 2004.

News You Can Use

All employees who had a Flexible Spending Account for health care or dependent care in FY2004 must submit their receipts - dated by December 31, 2004 - to FlexAmerica by March 31, 2005. Claim forms are available at www.flexamerica.com



A new year is just around the corner — it's time to plan for your CLE hours.

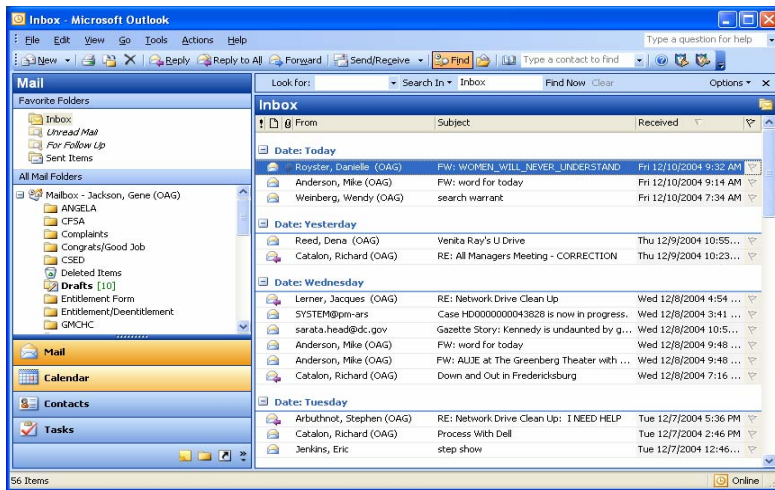


Terrell Junior High School Holiday Party

News you can Use: INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADDING A SHARED CALENDAR

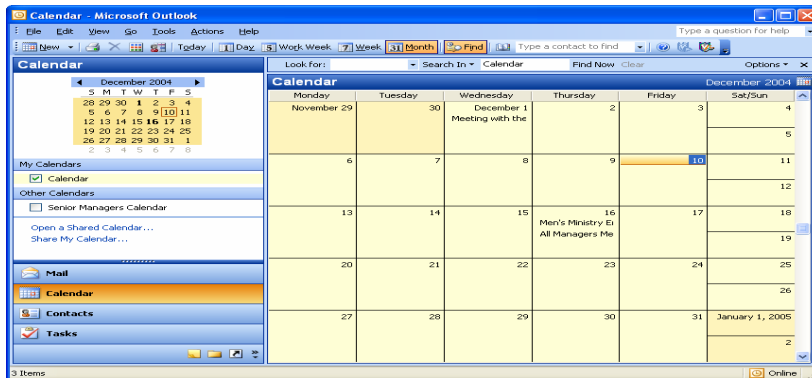
Open your Outlook (email)

1. Click on the Calendar Icon

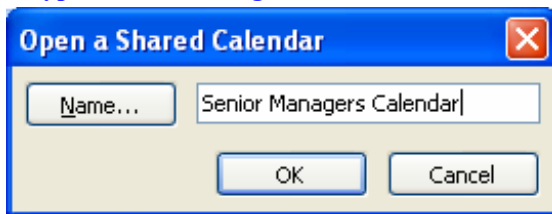


On this screen

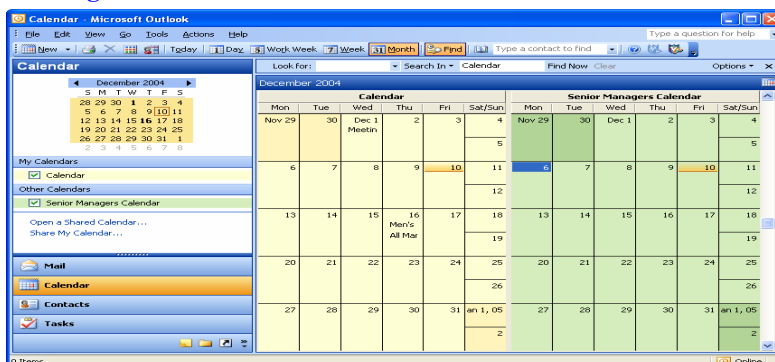
2. Select "Open a Shared Calendar"



3. Type "Senior Managers Calendar" and click OK.



4. Congratulations! You have added a shared calendar.





**Test your knowledge of the District's legislative process.
How many can you answer without looking them up?**

1. What is a Bill?
2. How many votes does a bill require for passage?
3. What happens to legislation after it is passed by the Council?
4. How long does the Mayor have to consider a bill passed by the Council?
5. What happens if the Mayor vetoes a bill passed by the Council?
6. How many days does Congress have to approve District legislation?
7. Why must an Act enacted by the local elected officials be approved by Congress?
8. Why does it take so long for Congress to approve District legislation?
9. What is an Emergency Bill?
10. What is a Temporary Bill?
11. As a citizen, how can I voice my opinion on pending legislation?
12. How can I get a transcript of the hearings held by the Council?

**The answers can be found on the D.C. Council's official website at
<http://www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us>**

Click on their FAQ button.

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The Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG) handles all suits instituted by or against the District of Columbia. In addition to providing legal advice to the District government and its agencies, the OAG prosecutes certain criminal acts, and serves as the guardian *ad litem* for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect.

Around Town

The Terrell JHS Holiday Bash was a HUGE hit! About 150 students showed up for pizza, punch, cake — the WORKS! Thanks to the efforts of Angela Harvey, Nicole Kleman, Lorenzo Crowe, Henning Vent, Cory Chandler, Nick Majett and countless others, the students at Terrell had a great time. OAG employees donated approximately a \$1,000 to help make the holiday season a happy one for the students. FedEx generously donated \$2,000. The kids went home with gift certificates from Best Buy and McDonalds. Cash prizes were awarded for the winners of the dance contest.



On the dance floor at Terrell JHS



Having a good time at the Holiday Party

Kudos to Assistant Attorney General Tom Foltz for scripting a dramatic account of what goes on behind the conference room doors between a lawyer and a high profile client seeking to try their case in the media. It was all for the Bryant Inn of Court (a court centered bench-bar educational forum) gathering on 12/14 at the U.S. District Court. The theme: *Cameras in the Courtroom*. The guest speaker was Court TV's Fred Graham. ◆◆◆





**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION 1ST
ANNUAL CSSD STAFF AWARD WINNERS**

CONGRATULATIONS!!

November Staff Star of the Month: *Dionne Duren*

Customer Service Award: *Mary Floyd*

Attorney of the Year: *Geoff Platnick*

Manager of the Year: *Pat Williams*

Unit of the Year: *Establishment*



**5 YEARS with CSED/
CSSD**

Yvette Jordan-Smith
Rachael George
Eugenie Lucas
Lena Brown
Tracy Blacksheare
Kiesha McCauley-
Jackson
Juan Abrams
Roger Turpin
Joseph Hooper
Dawn Christie
Lameshea Jordan
Theresa Allen
Lashonn Wright
Renee Worley
Mary Chambers
LaShonn Perry
Dionne Duren
Vernesher Brown
Greta Faison
Willis Jones
Karen Adebiji
Dennis Howard
Robert Ratchford
Julia Johnson
Valerie Johnson
Gloria Latney
Jackie Doughty
Jeremy Grey
Cecilia Steiner-Smith
Robin Houser
David Matthews

**10 YEARS WITH
CSED/CSSD**

Euline Davis
Darlene May
Brenda Campbell
Jessie Ball
Laurie Ensworth
Paul Boykin
Darren Catoe
Vivian White
Sabra Wicher
Olivia Jones
Alice Ellis
Stephanie Woolbright
Angela Williams
Debra Evans
Rocelia Johnson
Eddie Hill
Beverly Holloway
Steven Swann
Ronald Minor
Phillip Cheeks
Koshinier Williams
Joseph Bradley
James Street
Deborah Haynes-
Rustin
Lawrence Smith

**15 YEARS WITH
CSED/CSSD**

Carolyn Walker
William Pinkett
Linda Colter
Mary Williams
Sabrina Brown
Debora Deal
Tim Thomas
Merita Tyler
Vincent Covert
John Pollard
Marvin Day
Leona Anderson

**20 YEARS WITH
CSED/CSSD**

Herb Jeter
Melvin Coleman
Rene Butler
Margaret Price
Marlene Coffey
Deloris Onley
Patricia Williams
Mary Washington-
McGowan
Gertrude Thomp-
son
Dorothy Ball
Reginald Cuffee
Claudia Treadwell
Villareal Johnson
Linda Wilkes
Delores Onley

**25 YEARS WITH
CSED/CSSD**

Patricia Miller-
Thompson
Phyllis McKiever
Phillip McKiever
Mary Floyd
Arlene White
Kenny Hill
Carlos Thomas

**30 YEARS WITH CSED/
CSSD**

Monica McCauley
Pat Shorter